

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANAA 00459 131414Z

43

ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3420

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, YE, IT

SUBJ: BIO INFORMATION-YEMENI AMBASSADOR AL-WAZIR

REF: ROME 3378

FOLLOWING IS BRIEF SKETCH OF YEMENI AMBASSADOR TO ITAL MUHAMMAD
ABD AL-QUDDUS AL-WAZIR PROVIDED ON INTERIM BASIS PENDING FULL
REPORT:

AMBASSADOR AL-WAZIR WAS BORN IN SANAA ABOUT 1930. HE IS
A MEMBER OF A LARGE AND POLITICALLY PROMINENT FAMILY, THE
AL-WAZIRS, WHO WERE RIVALS TO THE HAMID AL-DIN FAMILY FOR THE
THRONE OF YEMEN. (ONE MEMBER, ABDALLAH AL-WAZIR, ASSASSINATED
IMAM YAHYA IN 1948 AND WAS IN TURN EXECUTED BY THE LATTER'S
SON IMAM AHMAD WHEN HIS COUP D'ETAT FAILED.) AMBASSADOR
AL-WAZIR SERVED PREVIOUSLY IN ROME AS THE HEAD OF THE
IMAM'S DIPLOMATIC MISSION PRIOR TO THE 1962 REVOLUTION.

AT THE TIME OF THE REVOLUTION, AL-WAZIR WAS IN YEMEN AND
WAS IMPRISONED BY THE PRO-EGYPTIAN REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT
OF MARSHALL SALLAL. UNLIKE MANY OTHER PROMINENT ROYALISTS HE
WAS NOT EXECUTED AND EVENTUALLY OBTAINED HIS FREEDOM WHEN
SALLAL WAS DEPOSED IN 1967, FOLLOWING THE DEPARTURE OF EGYPTIAN
TROOPS.

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PAGE 02 SANAA 00459 131414Z

ALTHOUGH THE LARGE AL-WAZIR FAMILY SPLIT INTO ROYALIST,

REPUBLICAN AND NEUTRALIST ELEMENTS DURING THE CIVIL WAR, IT HAS
REMAINED INFLUENTIAL, CONSEQUENTLY WHEN PROMINENT ROYALISTS
WERE ALLOWED BACK IN YEMEN FOLLOWING THE RAPPROACHMENT WITH
SAYDU ARABIA IN 1970, AMBASSADOR AL-WAZIR WAS QUICKLY
REHABILITATED AND APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON. IN 1973
HE BECAME AMBASSADOR TO ITALY.

AMBASSADOR AL-WAZIR IS SOCIABLE AND INTELLIGENT. HE WILL
DRINK IN MODERATION. HE IS MARRIED TO A YEMENI AND REPORTEDLY HAS
ONE SON AND TWO DAUGHTERS. HE SPEAKS ARABIC, ENGLISH, AND
ITALIAN. THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR IN SANAA HAS A HIGH REGARD FOR
HIM AND CONSIDERS HIM FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO THE WEST.
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